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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: MARTONE, Stephen, et al.  
Serial Number: Not yet assigned  
Filed: September 20, 2004 as PCT/US2004/030807 and Herewith as U.S.  
National Stage  
For: BRAIDED MINIMALLY INVASIVE CHANNEL  
Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Further to the concurrent filing of the U.S. national stage of PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/030807, kindly amend the application as indicated in the following pages prior to examination.